HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stevens Road Private

Description:

The Colesville Colored School has been converted to a dwelling, and now faces northwest toward the road. The school is a one-story, three-bay by three-bay frame structure with a poured concrete foundation, vinyl siding over German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. The northwest elevation has a door in the center. There is a one-bay porch that has a balustrade covered with vinyl siding and a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge. The current plan of the house has one room in the center, with two rooms to the northeast. The north corner room is a modern kitchen. In the south room, the southeast wall beneath the paneling has homosote (or a similar type of material) covering the walls. It is painted maroon red and apparently had battens to cover the joints. There is white paint beneath the maroon. The bottom half of the wall was covered with some kind of wainscoting that is now removed, and the homosote beneath is unpainted. The homosote is fastened with wire nails to dimensional 2 by 4 studs. The northwest wall still retains beaded-edge-and-center tongue and groove vertical board half wainscot. It is painted maroon over a grayish-blue, and the blue appears to be the first color. The present ceiling in this room has drywall. About 3 feet above this ceiling is the original homosote ceiling with battens

Significance:

The 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Howard County shows a school house at the location of the present Colesville Colored School. This was apparently not a public school, since the ten-acre property was owned by Francis Rooney, nor is it known whether the school was used by black or white students. The Rooney family sold the property to James H. Edlar in 1920, and the following year Edlar sold 1 3/4 acres to the Board of Education. There is no evidence in any other Board of Education records about the construction of a school at Colesville. Mary Anna Gibson, formerly the owner of the Colesville School, recalled the building being built in 1934 to replace the earlier schoolhouse, which she had also attended. The earlier schoolhouse faced Stephens Road. Many African-American schools in this period were built with funds from the Rosenwald Fund, which was created by Julius Rosenwald, CEO of Sears, Roebuck & Co., in 1917 to improve educational opportunities for black children in the rural south. According to the Rosenwald Fund archives only three schools in Howard County were funded by Rosenwald, Cooksville, Elkridge, and Guilford. There is no evidence in any other Board of Education records about the construction of a school at Colesville. Julius Rosenwald died in 1932, and the program ended when the funding for that year was exhausted. It therefore seems unlikely that the Colesville School was a Rosenwald school. The only mention of the Colesville School by the Board of Education in 1934 was in early September, when they voted "to continue school at Colesville School for this year rather than transport children to Guilford Colored School." Mrs. Gibson related that the old building was torn down though the new one was not finished, so the children went to school in another building nearby in the interim. Apparently, this vote of the Board of Education records their decision to conduct school nearby rather than to transport the children elsewhere. The building was demolished in 2007.

Inventory No.

HO-917

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate prefer	red name)			
historic	Colesville	Colored School				
other						
2. Location						
street and number	8851 Steph	ens Road			no	ot for publication
city, town	Laurel				_Xv	icinity
county	Howard					47
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and ma	ailing addresses	of all owners)		
name	ETC Partne	ership			-	
street and number	10272 Balt	imore National Pike			telephone	410-461-2855
city, town	Ellicott Cit	y	state	MD	zip code	21042
Contributing Contributing Determined Determined Recorded by	Resource in Nati Resource in Loc Eligible for the Na Ineligible for the I HABS/HAER cture Report or R	f Additional D onal Register District al Historic District ational Register/Marylan National Register/Maryla Research Report	d Register			
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both	Current Function agriculture commerce/trade defense domestic education funerary government health care industry	landscape recreation/c religion social transportati work in prog unknown X vacant/not i other:	on gress	1 	unt Noncontributing 0 buildings 0 sites 0 structures 0 objects 0 Total Intributing Resource and the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-917

Condition

-	excellent		deteriorated
	good		ruins
	fair	X	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Colesville Colored School is located at 8851 Stevens Road, about 1-1/4 miles north of Laurel, in southeastern Howard County, Maryland.

The school building has been converted to a dwelling, and now faces northwest toward the road. The school is a one-story, three-bay by three-bay frame structure with a poured concrete foundation, vinyl siding over German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. The school has a box cornice with returns. The German siding is face-nailed with wire nails and is painted an olive green color. The northwest elevation has a door in the center with three lying lights over three lying panels. There is a one-bay porch that has a balustrade covered with vinyl siding, screening above the balustrade, and a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge. Both of the end bays contain a pair of new one-over-one sash. The southwest elevation has a shorter projecting bay with a concrete foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. This bay is set in the center, with no opening in it or to either side of it. The northwest elevation of this projecting bay has a small new one-over-one sash on it. The southeast elevation has a new one-over-one sash in the south bay, two one-over-one sash in the center, and nothing in the east bay. The northeast elevation has a door in the center that has three lying lights over three lying panels. There is a new two-over-two sash in the east bay, and no opening in the north bay. There is a small vent in the gable end.

The current plan of the house has one room in the center, with two rooms to the northeast. The north corner room is a modern kitchen. The southwest end has a passage that runs northeast-southwest, with one room to each side and a modern bathroom at the southwest end in the projecting bay. This projecting bay is apparently the original entrance vestibule. All of the rooms have carpet or linoleum on the floors, have paneling and drywall on the ceilings, and have modern trim. The ceilings are about 8 feet high.

In the south room, the southeast wall beneath the paneling has homosote (or a similar type of material) covering the walls. It is painted maroon red and apparently had battens to cover the joints. There is white paint beneath the maroon. The bottom half of the wall was covered with some kind of wainscoting that is now removed, and the homosote beneath is unpainted. The homosote is fastened with wire nails to dimensional 2 by 4 studs. Holes have been punched in the wall on either side of the studs, apparently to locate them prior to putting up the paneling. The southwest wall in this room has modern paneling beneath the existing paneling, with holes punched through both the paneling and the homosote. The outer face of the studs have a heavy gray paper attached, then the wood siding is laid over top of the paper. It appears that the homosote was used like a bulletin board as it has many tack holes and a piece of something striped on the south wall. The bottom half of the homosote has a pattern of vertical striped ghosts from the wainscot and some impressions of the beads. The beads were about 1-3/4 inches apart, on centers, indicating that it was beaded edge and center vertical board half wainscot. The top of the wainscot was 3 feet 7 inches above the floor. The floor is 2-1/2 inche pine that runs northeast-southwest, and has spills of paint around the walls. The floor also has a row of tacks about 3 feet 10-1/2 inches from the southeast wall and running northeast-southwest. There are traces of what appears to be linoleum under the nails. There is not another row of tacks in this room, along the southeast or near the northwest walls.

The east room has a reddish-brown stain on part of the southwest end of the floor and a dark brown paint or stain over top of most of it. The stain runs along the southeast wall, too. The northeast wall window is located where an original window was, and there is a ghost of earlier trim below the sill. The wainscot is carried around this wall, then drops below the sill level, where it is only 2 feet 6-1/2 inches high. The homosote is painted blue in this room, and there is some blue between the sill and the wainscot. Above the window is a patch indicating that the original windows were taller, but were the same width. The wainscot stopped short of the northwest partition, as did a batten. The northwest wall is drywall that is painted the same blue as the east wall, and is painted a pale blue beneath this blue, with the ghost of earlier door trim around existing trim. This earlier trim was about 4-1/2 inches wide. There is no clear evidence of a chalkboard having been on the northeast wall. The southeast wall has a window opening that has been filled with homosote, and has the ghost of trim around it that covers either a white paint that has yellowed, or a yellow ochre paint. This window may have been added, then removed. There were battens on the joints first, then they were taken off and the

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Name

Colesville Colored School

Continuation Sheet

Number

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window trim added, then the trim was later removed. This window was taller than the present ceiling. There is raw homosote at the bottom of the wall, and it drops down below the windowsill. This homosote also has ghosts of the bead board wainscot.

The bathroom at the southwest end has a drop ceiling, and above this ceiling is a homosote ceiling with battens.

In the west room, the southwest wall also has two layers of paneling over top of homosote painted maroon. There is infill homosote at the bottom and it is white. There is a window set near the west corner, with a six-over-six double-hung sash that has ovolo muntins, 8 by 8 inch lights, parting beads, and a checkrail. The frame is cut out for sash cord pulleys, but this hardware is gone. The homosote is painted right up to the frame, as if there was no trim on it, or the window was cut in later. The bottom rail of the bottom sash has two handles. The sill is painted dark green, and the jambs are a cream color on the interior and white on the exterior. The northwest wall still retains beaded-edge-and-center tongue and groove vertical board half wainscot. It is painted maroon over a grayish-blue, and the blue appears to be the first color. The top trim piece on the wainscot has been removed. Some of this wainscot was used to furr-out the top half of the wall for the paneling. The west jamb of the window has raw homosote with white paint at the edge, and then maroon, and must be the location of the original window. The present ceiling in this room has drywall. About 3 feet above this ceiling is the original homosote ceiling with battens, and it is painted maroon. There is a wall to the northeast, and beyond it the ceiling and battens are white. There is no evidence in this space between the two ceilings of the tops of the window openings. A hole has been knocked through the southwest wall to the attic above the vestibule that is now a bathroom. The rafters are mitered and butted, with solid milled wood sheathing. The southwest partition in the center room has drywall.

Period	Areas of S	ignificance	Check and j	ustify below		
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 _X 1900-1999 2000-		ogycture erce inicationsinity planning	economics education engineering entertainmer recreation X ethnic heritag exploration/ settlement	law	e	performing arts philospohy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific date	es N	I/A		Architect/Builder	N/A	
Constructio	n dates c.	. 1934				
Evaluation fo	r:					
N	ational Registe	ır	M	aryland Register	X	not evaluated

Inventory No

TTO 017

Cianificance

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Howard County shows a school house at the location of the present Colesville Colored School. This was apparently not a public school, since the ten-acre property was owned by Francis Rooney. Nor is it known whether the school was used by black or white students. The Board of Education determined in 1878 to close five colored schools, leaving only one in each district, so this school could have been related to those closings. If so, the building would have been provided by the community. Typically, the Board of Education took possession of schools they operated, though they did rent space on occasion for schools until the community could prove a definite need and provide a building. In 1899 a committee of the Board of Education reported that the "colored school near Colesville" needed an addition, if the money was available. Presumably, the school they were referring to was the building shown on the 1878 atlas, though the Rooney family still owned it. Whether or not the addition was made is not recorded. In May, 1920 the Board of Education minutes note: "A colored delegation from the sixth district was before the Board asking for a new school of two rooms to be located centrally between Annapolis Junction and Guilford. The colored people have raised \$700 toward the erection of this school and will be able to secure \$800 from the Rosenwald Fund. They asked the Board and the County Commissioners to levy sufficient money to complete the said school." This was presumably the push that led to the construction of the Guilford School, north of the Colesville School. (1)

The Rooney family sold the property to James H. Edlar in 1920, and the following year Edlar sold 1 3/4 acres to the Board of Education. The Board of Education has a copy of this deed, which is titled "Colesville School." The Board of Education minutes do not mention the acquisition of this property, or its use, until 1925, when the board determined to build a colored school at Cooksville and "a two room school at Colesville in the sixth District. It was stated that the schools could be built with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund and the amount of money raised by the colored people with an additional sum of \$6500 raised by the county." The Rosenwald Fund was created by Julius Rosenwald, CEO of Sears, Roebuck & Co., in 1917 to improve educational opportunities for black children in the rural south. The Cooksville School was built with these funds, though the building no longer exists. An undated report on "The Colored Schools of Howard County" in the files of the Board of Education describes it as "a one-teacher school with an enrollment of 40 pupils. It was built through a Rosenwald Foundation grant. Its capacity is approximately 35 pupils. This school carries the first five grades. The sixth grade, this year, was transferred to the Tubman High school because of the crowded conditions in this school." The Tubman school opened by 1950, so the report must date after that year. According to the Rosenwald Fund archives at Fisk University, however, only three schools in Howard County were funded by Rosenwald, Cooksville, Elkridge, and Guilford. There is no evidence in any other Board of Education records about the construction of a school at Colesville. In 1932 a coal stove was purchased for the Colesville School, but this was presumably for the old building. (2)

Mary Anna Gibson, formerly the owner of the Colesville School, recalled the building being built in 1934 to replace the earlier schoolhouse, which she had also attended. The earlier schoolhouse faced Stephens Road, according to Mrs. Gibson, and the 1878

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Name Colesville Colored School
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atlas indicates this, as well. Mrs. Gibson also grew up next to the school. Julius Rosenwald died in 1932, and the program ended when the funding for that year was exhausted. It therefore seems unlikely that the Colesville School was a Rosenwald school. The Rosenwald Fund created standard building plans as a guide for communities, but did not require these plans to be used. The Colesville School does not follow any of these plans, but instead is completely within the tradition of one-room schools in Howard County. The only mention of the Colesville School by the Board of Education in 1934 was in early September, when they voted "to continue school at Colesville School for this year rather than transport children to Guilford Colored School." Mrs. Gibson related that the old building was torn down though the new one was not finished, so the children went to school in another building nearby in the interim. Apparently, this vote of the Board of Education records their decision to conduct school nearby rather than to transport the children elsewhere. (3)

The existing building is constructed of dimensional lumber with German siding on the exterior and homosote (or a similar product) on the interior walls. The gaps in the homosote were covered with battens. The walls also had bead-board half wainscot. The windows were originally taller than the existing sash, and the front door was located in the south gable end. The construction of the building is simple and probably was much cheaper than using plaster on the interior walls, and it almost certainly dates to after 1921, when the school board acquired the property, since homosote was first introduced in 1916.

In addition to being crowded, the report on the Colesville School noted other problems: "The furniture in this school is old and broken down and not fit for use. The teacher's desk is likewise, - in the same condition. The cloak room in this school is, by far, too small to accommodate this enrollment of pupils. The building has been recently painted both inside and out but nothing was done in the way of painting to the other small buildings on the grounds. There is no water supply on these grounds therefore the children have to bring water from the neighbors. The space for supervised play and recreation at this school is very limited. This is due to the fact that there are a number of trees on the grounds which offer a hazard. In another area the site is sloping which is hazardous for some games." The other buildings mentioned were probably privies, since there was no running water for flush toilets. It was common to reuse old furniture from white schools in black schools, and this probably explains the poor condition of the furniture at Colesville School, even though the building must have been new. In 1953 a new consolidated school was built at Guilford, and the children at Colesville were transferred to that building. The following year the Colesville school, apparently only 20 years old, was sold. It was purchased by C. Y. Stephens, the business manager of High's Dairy, for \$2,776, and converted to a dwelling. Walls were added and the ceiling dropped, and the house was rented to Herman and Mary Anna Gibson. Mrs. Gibson worked for Stephens at this time. In 1962 they bought the old school from Stephens, and Mrs. Gibson continued to live there until 2006. The building is scheduled to be demolished in 2007 for redevelopment of the property. (4)

Notes:

- (1). G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Howard County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1878). Alice Cornelison, Silas E. Craft, Sr., and Lillie Price, "History of Blacks in Howard County Maryland: Oral History, Schooling, and Contemporary Issues." (Columbia, MD: Howard County NAACP, 1986), pp. 80, 84, 88.
- (2). Cornelison, et al, "History of Blacks in Howard County," pp. 91, 94. "The Colored Schools of Howard County," typescript, n.d., p. 5, in the files of the Board of Education. Personal communication, Susan Pearl to Joetta Cramm, 20 November 2006.
- (3). Personal communication, Joetta Cramm to Ken Short, 13 November 2006. http://rosenwaldschools.org/resources.html. Cornelison, et al, "History of Blacks in Howard County," p. 96.
- (4). "The Colored Schools of Howard County, p. 5." I am indebted to Joetta Cramm for information on C. Y. Stephens.

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Name Colesville Colored School

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Cornelison, et al, "History of Blacks in Howard County," p. 127.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geograp	h	ic	al	Da	ata
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Acreage of surveyed property 1.75 acres

Acreage of historical setting 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name

Savage

Quadrangle scale

1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of all of map 47, parcel 137, which encompasses all of the surviving historic structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning	date	3/9/2007
street and number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone 4	10-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD zip	code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032

410-514-7600

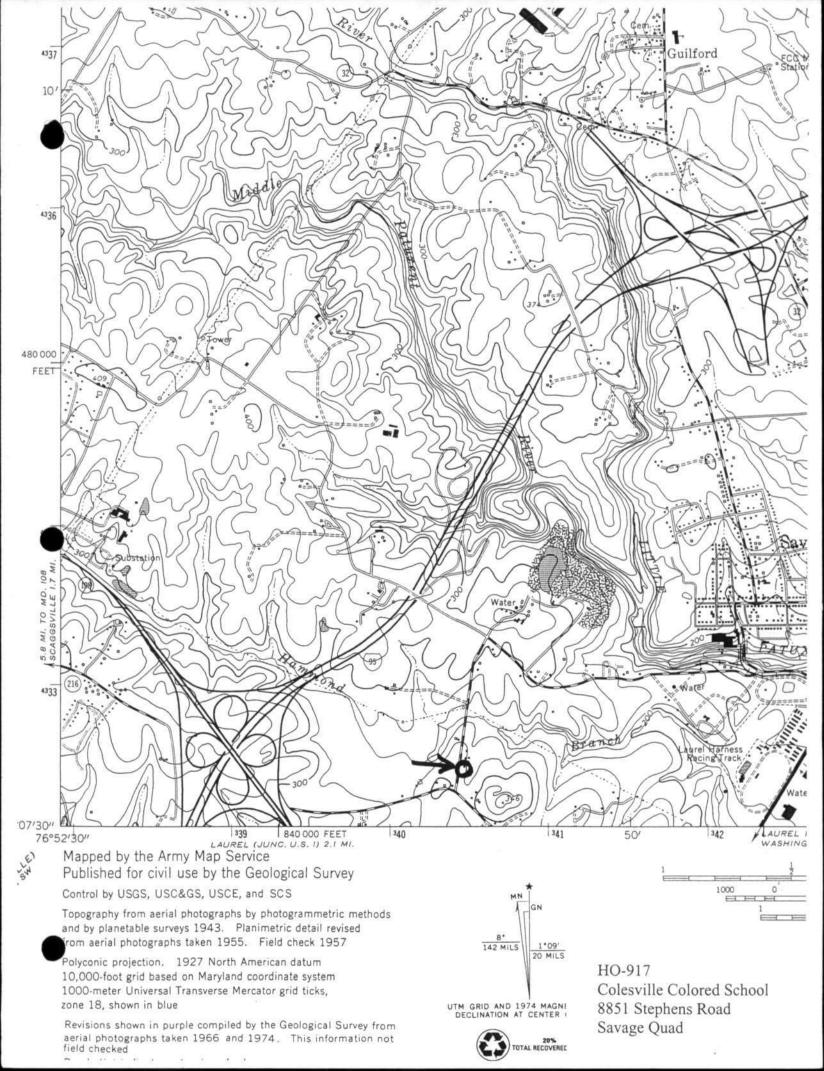
Inventory No. HO-917

Name	Colesvi	lle Colore	d School
Continu	ation She	et	
Number	9	Page	1

See footnotes

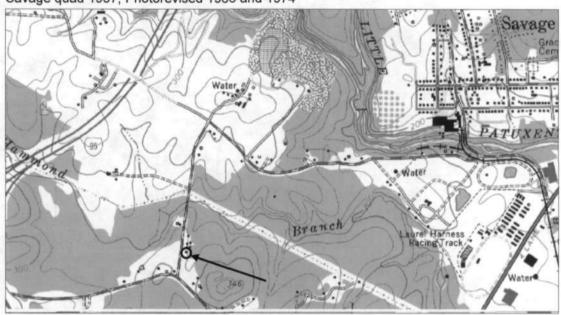
Colesville Colored School HO-917 8851 Stephens Road CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Mary Anna Gibson	ETC Partnership	1.12.2006	Ì	Deed	\$629,000	1.75 A	
Mary Anna Gibson/?	Mary Anna Gibson/?	11.20.1984	CMP 1312-308	Deed	\$5.00	1.75 A	For life H.G. d. 5.29.1984
C. Y. & Mary Ann Stephens (H/W)/?	Herman & Mary Anna Gibson (H/W)?	9.11.1962	XMP 389- 525	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	1.75 A	(no previous reference)
Bd. of Ed. of Howard Co./ & State Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Pullen, trustee	C. Y. & Mary Ann Stephens (H/W)/?	11.18.1954	RHM 264-441	Corrective deed – fee simple	\$2776	1.75 A	Earlier deed missed ¼ A sold June 1, 1954 Property no longer needed as public school
Bd. of Ed. of Howard Co./ & State Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Pullen, trustee	C. Y. & Mary Ann Stephens (H/W)/?	9.17.1954	MWB 261-174	Deed – fee simple	\$2776	1-1/2 A	(No previous reference)
James H. Edlar/Howard County Mildred Lee Mackubin/Howard James W. Travers/Howard	Bd. of Ed. of Howard Co.	8.6.1921	114-290	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	1-1/2 A	p/o Sappingtons Sweep Same m & b as above (school has copy of this titled Colesville School)
William F. Rooney & wf. Elizabeth/Howard	James H. Edlar/Howard	10.26.20	111-176	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	10 A	E. Rooney d. – will 8.12.1889 IS 3-31
Francis Rooney/Howard	Elizabeth Rooney, wf. of Francis	5.6.1880	LJW 41-624	Deed	Love & affection & \$1.00	10A	Also all pp on the property
James A. Rooney/Howard	William F. Rooney/Howard	7.26.1894	JHO 62-27	Deed	\$275	10 A	
Elizabeth Rooney	William F. Rooney James A. Rooney, sons	Probated 3.18.1890 Written 8.12.1889	Wills IS 3-31	Bequest	-	10A	
Francis Mohun & wf. Martha/Washington D.C.	Francis Rooney/Howard	12.16.1865	WWW 24-538	Deed - Indenture	\$250	10A	P/o Sappingtons Sweep



HO-917 Colesville Colored School, site 8851 Stevens Road, Laurel Savage quad 1957, Photorevised 1966 and 1974

DEMOLISHED



Early 1990s Infrared Aerial Photo

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2007-08



HO-0917_20061024_01 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Northwest elevation Ken Short October 2006 1/7

HO-0917_20061024_02 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Northeast & northwest elevations Ken Short October 2006 2/7

HO-0917_20061024_03 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Southeast elevation Ken Short October 2006 3/7

HO-0917_20061024_04 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Southwest elevation Ken Short October 2006 4/7 HO-0917_20061024_05 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Interior, SE wall E. bay window infill Ken Short October 2006 5/7

HO-0917_20061024_06 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Interior, east corner ghost of wainscot Ken Short October 2006 6/7

HO-0917_20061024_07 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Howard County, MD Interior, west corner with hidden window exposed, and wainscot Ken Short October 2006 7/7



HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Northwest elevation Ken Short, October 2006 1/7



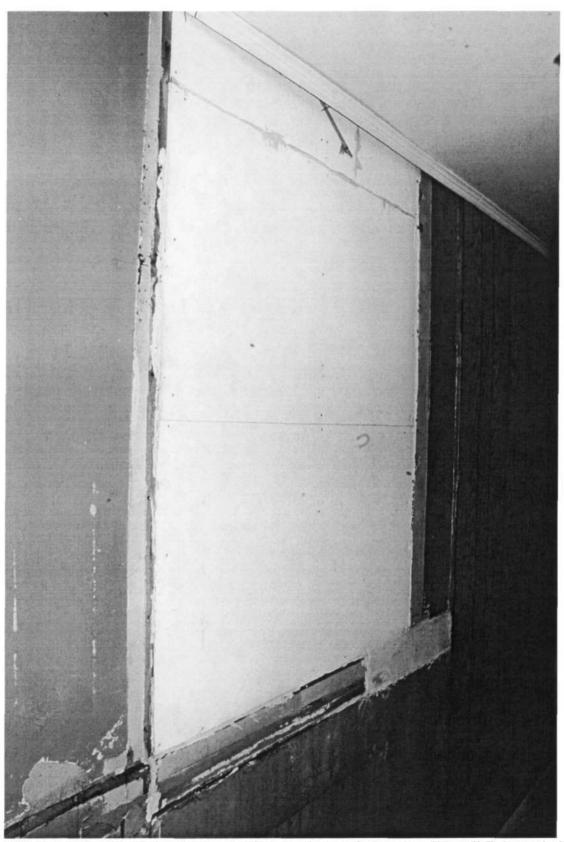
HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Northeast & northwest elevations Ken Short, October 2006 2/7



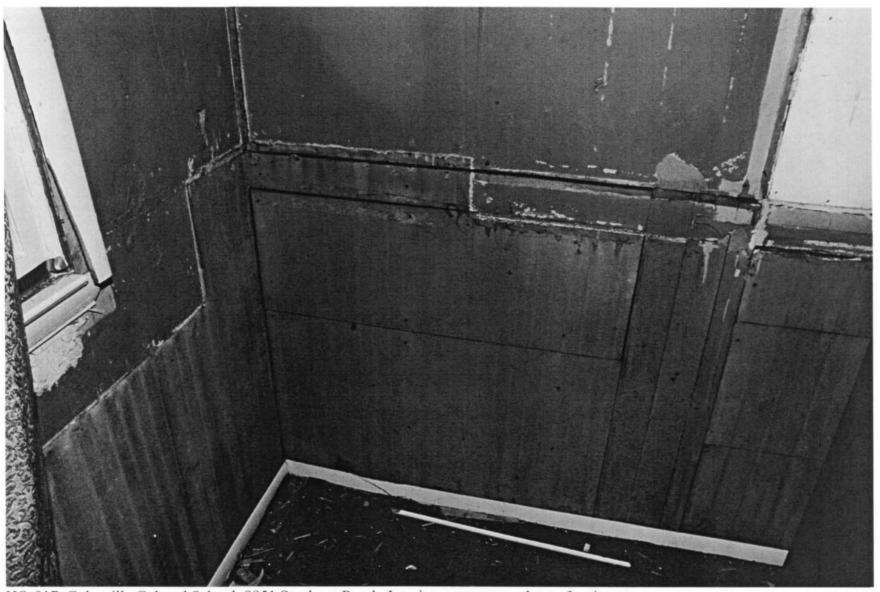
HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Southeast elevation Ken Short, October 2006 3/7



HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Southwest elevation Ken Short, October 2006 4/7



HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Rd Interior, SE wall E. bay window infill Ken Short, October 2006 5/7



HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Interior, east corner ghost of wainscot Ken Short, October 2006 6/7



HO-917 Colesville Colored School 8851 Stephens Road Interior, west corner with hidden window exposed, and wainscot Ken Short, October 2006 7/7